In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) An isolated substantially homogeneous *mpl* ligand [polypeptide] having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of thrombopoietic activity comprising:

(i) a human *mpl* ligand EPO-domain fragment, hML_{153} as shown in Fig. 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) and,

(ii) a variant *mpl* ligand having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with hML_{153}.

2. (Amended) The *mpl* ligand [polypeptide] of Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of

(a) a fragment [polypeptide] *mpl* ligand comprising amino acid residues 1 to X of Fig. 1 (SEQ ID NO:1), where X is selected from the group consisting of amino acid residues 153, 164, 191, 205, 207, 217, 229 and 245;

(b) a variant [polypeptide] *mpl* ligand comprising a ligand having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity with hML_{153}; and

(c) a chimeric protein [polypeptide] comprising a *mpl* ligand of (a) or (b) fused to a molecule selected from the group consisting of an IgG fragment, IL-3, G-CSF and EPO.

6. (Amended) A fragment [polypeptide] *mpl* ligand according to Claim 2, wherein the amino acid sequence of the [polypeptide] *mpl* ligand comprises amino acid residues 1 to X of **Fig. 1** (SEQ ID NO: 1), where X is selected from the group 153, 164, 191, 205, 207, 217, 229[,] and 245 [and 332].

17. (Amended) [A chimera] The chimeric protein of Claim 2 comprising the N-terminus residues 1 to about 153 to 157 of hML[, substituted with one or

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more, but not all, of the human EPO residues added or substituted into the N-terminus residues of hML at positions corresponding to the alignment] shown in **Fig. 10** (SEQ ID NO:6) fused to human erythropoietin (EPO) shown in **Fig. 10** (SEQ ID NO:7).

Please add the following new claims:

--38. The *mpl* ligand of Claim 1 that is full length human *mpl* ligand hML_{332}. --

--39. The *mpl* ligand of Claim 1 that is an EPO-domain fragment human *mpl* ligand hML_{153}. --

--40. The *mpl* ligand of Claim 38 that is glycosylated. --

--41. The *mpl* ligand of Claim 6 further comprising an N-methionyl residue. --

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--42. The *mpl* ligand of Claim 41 that is unglycosylated. --

--43. The *mpl* ligand of Claim 42 further comprising a nonproteinaceous polymer covalently linked to the *mpl* ligand selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol and polyoxyalkylene. --

--44. The variant *mpl* ligand of Claim 2 that is an amino acid substitution variant in which at least one amino acid residue in the *mpl* ligand is removed and a different residue is inserted in its place. --

--45. The variant *mpl* ligand of Claim 44 that is hML_{332} (R153A, R154A). --